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From:

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Sent:

Saturday, August 08, 2009 6:26 AM

To:

Kennedy-Web; Mayes-WebEmail; Newman-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web

Subject:

**APS Inncrease** 

Attachments:

APS Increase News Article Here we go again.doc

When articles only appear in the Sun City newspapers they sometimes don't get out to much of the world. This is just in case you didn't see a copy. I look forward to the August 12th and 19th meetings.

Thanks for your service.

Mary Worthen

President

Sun City Taxpayers Association

Arizona Corporation Commission

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## APS CUSTOMER CALL TO ACTION.

Here we go again! Another rate increase is being request by APS. The Arizona Corporation Commission is holding two public input sessions on two Wednesdays in August. The meetings, time and place listed below, are held to allow the public to express their concerns about the requested increase. These public meetings should be attended by hundreds of APS customers, but unfortunately, only a few will make the effort.

This latest round of rate increase is a continuation of the "Interim" increase allowed by the Arizona Corporation Commission on January 1, 2009. This requested increase will amount to 279.5 million dollars above the interim increase, or 344.7 million dollars more than we paid for electricity before January 1, 2009. (This requested increase amounts to about \$9 per month for the average user)

If we desire to buy a specific product from a retailer but then determine the product is too expensive, we may refuse to buy it. Unfortunately, we do not have that same choice with our utility service companies. This is where the Arizona Corporation Commission comes in. They allow or disallow the requested utility rate increase, and are very interested in public input.

Over the past years the Sun City Taxpayers Association, the Arizona Corporation Commission and RUCO have made comments concerning the level of management skills exercised by APS. Last year, before the interim rate increase was allowed, APS promised to cut \$20 million in expenses from its budget. Most of these proposed deleted expenses were contained at lower levels of management or operation.

The first of these public comment meetings is being held on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The second public comment session is on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Both of these sessions will be conducted at the Arizona Corporation Commission Offices at 1200 West Washington, Hearing Room 1, Phoenix, Arizona.

You may also express your concerns by mailing your material to: Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or email the Arizona Corporation Commission at <a href="mailmaster@azcc.gov">mailmaster@azcc.gov</a>. For either method, refer to Docket No. E-01345A-08-0172. If you wish to email individual ACC members, call SCTA at (623) 933-7530 and we will supply their specific email. Your input is important; please don't ignore this requested increase by APS.

The ACC is responsible for determining a fair and just amount to charge for many utility services. It is a very difficult job and they do appreciate input from the public. They are aware that most of us are on a fixed income and many of us live very close to the edge, but it is still effective to let them know just how difficult it is with low interest rates and declining retirement investments.

Many of the phone calls or letters to the Sun City Taxpayers Association contain concerns about cost of living increases. SCTA has a good record of intervening and limiting these rising costs. We will appear at these August public hearings and will speak for Sun City and the surrounding areas, but we are only one voice. We must all become active at this time by expressing our concerns. If we don't, we have only ourselves to blame. Get involved!